

William Faulkner (1897 – 1962)

- **William Cuthbert Falkner**
- **Born:** September 25, 1897
New Albany, Mississippi, U.S.
- **Died:** July 6, 1962 (aged 64)
Byhalia, Mississippi, U.S.
- **Notable works:**
 - The Sound and the Fury (1929),
 - As I lay Dying (1930)
 - Light in August (1932)
 - Absalom! Absalom! (1936).
 - "A Rose for Emily"
 - "The Bear"
- **Notable awards:**
 - Nobel Prize in Literature (1949)
 - Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1955, 1963)
 - National Book Award (1951, 1955)
- William Faulkner was an American writer and a Nobel Prize laureate from Oxford, Mississippi.
- He is primarily known for his novels, short stories set in the fictional *Yoknapatawpha Country* based on Lafayette County Mississippi where he spent most of his life.
- Two of his works *A Fable* (1954) and his last novel *The Reivers* (1962) won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.
- He wrote his first novel *Soldier's Pay* and second *Mosquitoes*.
- Faulkner wrote his first novel set in his fictional Yoknapatawpha Country entitled *Flags in the Dust* drew heavily on the traditions and history of the south and finally published in 1928 as *Sartoris*.
- In 1962, he died of a massive heart attack.
- His first story collection ***These 13 (1931)*** includes many of his most acclaimed stories including *A Rose for Emily*, *Red Leaves*, *The Evening Sun* and *Dry September*, dedicated to his first daughter *Alabama*, and wife *'Estelle'*.
- Three novels *The Hamlet*, *The Town* and *The Mansion* known collectively as *Snopes Trilogy*.
- 'Requiem for a Nun' is the only play by Faulkner.
- Faulkner wrote two volumes of poetry which were published in small printings *A Marble Faun* (1924) and *A Green Bough* (1933) and a collection of crime short stories *Knight's Gambit* (1949).
- He wrote **19 novels, 125 short stories, 20 screenplays, 1 play and 6 collections of poetry.**
- In 1998, the Modern Library ranked his 1929 novel *The Sound and the Fury* sixth on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century; also on the list were *As I Lay Dying* (1930) and *Light in August* (1932). *Absalom, Absalom!* (1936) appears on similar lists.
- In 1918, Faulkner's surname changed from "Falkner" to "Faulkner". According to one story, a careless typesetter made an error. When the misprint appeared on the title page of his first book, Faulkner was asked whether he wanted the change. He supposedly replied, "Either way suits me."
- Faulkner was known for his experimental style with meticulous attention to diction and cadence (*In poetry, cadence describes the fall in pitch of the intonation of the voice, and its modulated inflection with the rise and fall of its sound.*). In contrast to the minimalist understatement of his contemporary Ernest Hemingway, Faulkner made frequent use of "stream of consciousness" (*In literary criticism, stream of consciousness is a narrative mode or method that attempts "to depict the multitudinous thoughts and feelings which pass through the mind" of a narrator. The term was coined by Alexander Bain in 1855 in the first edition of The Senses and the Intellect, when he wrote, "The concurrence of Sensations in one common stream of consciousness (on the same cerebral highway) enables those of different senses to be associated as readily as the sensations of the same sense" (p. 359). But it is commonly credited to William James who used it in 1890 in his The Principles of Psychology. In 1918, the novelist May Sinclair (1863–1946) first applied the term stream of consciousness, in a literary context, when discussing Dorothy Richardson's (1873–1957) novels. Pointed Roofs (1915), the first work in Richardson's series of 13 semi-autobiographical novels titled Pilgrimage, is the first complete stream-of-consciousness novel published in English. However, in 1934, Richardson comments that "Proust, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf & D.R. ... were all using 'the new method', though very differently, simultaneously". In the following example of stream of consciousness from James Joyce's Ulysses, Molly seeks sleep:*

_ 'a quarter after what an unearthly hour I suppose theyre just getting up in China now combing out their pigtails for the day well soon have the nuns ringing the angelus theyve nobody coming in to spoil their sleep except an odd priest or two for his night office the alarmclock next door at cockshout clattering the brains out of itself let me see if I can doze off 1 2 3 4 5 what kind of flowers are those they invented like the stars the wallpaper in Lombard street was much nicer the apron he gave me was like that something only I only wore it twice better lower this lamp and try again so that I can get up early' _) in his writing, and wrote often highly emotional, subtle, cerebral, complex, and sometimes Gothic or grotesque stories of a wide variety of characters including former slaves or descendants of slaves, poor white, agrarian, or working-class Southerners, and Southern aristocrats.

- In an interview with The Paris Review in 1956, Faulkner remarked:
'Let the writer take up surgery or bricklaying if he is interested in technique. There is no mechanical way to get the writing done, no shortcut. The young writer would be a fool to follow a theory. Teach yourself by your own mistakes; people learn only by error. The good artist believes that nobody is good enough to give him advice. He has supreme vanity. No matter how much he admires the old writer, he wants to beat him.'
- The PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction is awarded annually by the PEN/Faulkner Foundation to the authors of the year's best works of fiction by living American citizens.
- **Selected list of works:**
 - The Sound and the Fury (1929)
 - As I Lay Dying (1930)
 - Light in August (1932)
 - Absalom, Absalom! (1936)
 - The Wild Palms (1939)
 - Go Down, Moses(1942)
 - The Reivers (1962)
 - "Dry September" (1931)
